

Key items & events

ConnectND story being told

Curt Wolfe, state chief information officer, and Grant Crawford, North Dakota University System chief information officer, will deliver a presentation on "Collaboration Between State & University System" during the PeopleSoft Connect 2003 conference in Anaheim. They will address a Public Sector Solution Breakout Session during the Executive Symposium on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Wolfe is a member of the State Steering Committee for ConnectND and Crawford is higher education's project director.

Tricia Campbell and Ted Montemayor will be presenting later that afternoon on the topic: "Rapid Implementation at North Dakota University System." Campbell is the higher education module lead for recruitment and admissions and Montemayor is the Maximus module lead for financial aid. On Thursday morning, Sept. 18, four representatives of ConnectND Financials will present "Accounting Across Higher Ed and the State." They are Chuck Lang, state financials manager; Mick Pytlik, higher education financials manager; Kirk Reynolds, Maximus financials project manager; and Mark Durham, Maximus higher education module lead for general ledger and assets management.

PeopleSoft Connect is the industry's premier gathering for IT and business professionals who use PeopleSoft products and services to achieve their business objectives.

Payroll Resource Center

The Higher Education Steering Committee was asked to consider some alternatives for establishing a payroll resource center to assist campuses with payroll processing. The committee referred the issue back to the project team for further study.

Phase 1 implemented at pilot sites

Although work continues on related issues and refinements, the Student Administration components – recruitment and admissions, student records, student financials and financial aid – along with major Financial and Human Resources Management Systems modules are now essentially operational at Mayville State University and Valley City State University, the two pilot campuses. With the successful issuance of this fall's student financial aid checks, functions to be delivered in the pilot rollout have been completed with the exception of end-of-term grading and graduation audit. Graduation audit will be rolled out to the pilot schools over the next year in conjunction with the remaining rollouts. Thus, the first phase of the ConnectND project at the state government and higher education pilot agencies was completed.

As implementation work continues, students and faculty members at Mayville and Valley City State have begun accessing information through the campus portals and are anticipating broader usage. Many new concepts have been introduced including self service, which may require considerable change management. In addition, the team recognizes the need for a greater emphasis on training, change management, and communication.

The Student Administration team will now enter into a post-production status with the pilot campuses and begin configuration for the remaining nine campuses. The Student Administration team would like to thank the faculty, staff and students of the pilot campuses for their hospitality, patience and effort in helping roll out the new software. The team looks forward to continuing as part of the Mayville State and Valley City State efforts to ensure the best product for students.

Beginning phase two, business process analysis sessions are finished or nearly completed for most ConnectND components. "Fit" sessions, which look at the specific requirements of each campus and agency, are well along for the various financial systems and human resource management systems and student administration systems for the non-pilot locations.

PowerPoint higher education general overview

Communication staff members have developed a general overview PowerPoint presentation on the ConnectND project suitable for a variety of higher education audiences. This presentation is now available from the ConnectND Web site.

NDUS implementation chairs to meet monthly

Beginning in September, NDUS campus implementation team chairs will meet monthly over the Interactive Video Network to review campus progress, discuss issues and concerns and share solutions. Meeting notices will go to campus implementation chairs.

September / October ConnectND IVN sessions

General updates of the overall ConnectND project are held the second Thursday of each month over IVN, at either 8 or 9 a.m. Monthly NDUS system (Financial, Human Resources Management, and Student Administration) sessions are held on a rotating basis. The upcoming schedule is:

- Thursday, Sept. 11 (8-8:50 a.m.)
---ConnectND Project Update*
- Thursday, Sept. 18 (9-9:50 a.m.)
--NDUS Human Resources Mgmt System discussion
- Thursday, Sept. 25 (8-8:50 a.m.)
---NDUS Student System discussion
- Thursday, Oct. 2 (9-9:50 a.m.)
--NDUS Financial System discussion
- Thursday, Oct. (8-8:50 a.m.)
---ConnectND Project Update*
- Thursday, Oct. 16 (9-9:50 a.m.)
---NDUS Human Resources Mgmt System discussion
- Thursday, Oct.23 (8-8:50 a.m.)
---NDUS Student System discussion

Everyone is invited to attend the IVN update sessions. Specific locations are indicated on the [calendar](#).

* **Note:** The general updates are captured and recorded through [webstreaming](#). Use the [video archive](#) to view a missed session at a later date.

Understanding the bigger picture

With the rapid pace of ConnectND implementation, answers come both quickly and not quickly enough.

This question arose at a meeting with a campus implementation team: “The pilot campuses tell me about things not working in PeopleSoft. The project team tells me things work fine. Who do I believe?”

Usually, by the time non-pilot campuses hear something isn’t working, the problem has been addressed or a temporary “work-around” has been found. As issues were resolved, major functions were operating. Students have gotten registered. Payroll runs. Vendors are paid.

Members of the project team have seen hundreds of issues raised, and know that most of the major issues have been resolved. The issues that remain may temporarily increase workload. But in most cases they do not affect major functionality. Often they await a “patch” from PeopleSoft or time to address the issue, or are better corrected at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Campus implementations coordinated

Recruitment and admissions components of ConnectND will be implemented next spring on the nine non-pilot campuses in conjunction with the rollout of other student administration systems.

Recruitment and admissions had tentatively been scheduled to “go live” this fall as the first stage of a phased implementation. That approach changed as personnel gained experience working with the Mayville State and Valley City State University pilot campuses.

After careful review of the pilot implementations, considering the interdependence of recruitment and admissions with the other Student Administration modules, the team determined all of the modules will roll out together on the non-pilot campuses in the May – June 2004 timeframe. The Student Administration team will work with the non-pilot schools to determine scheduling for the 2004-2005 school year and release a new schedule by October.

IT study launched

The Legislature’s interim Information Technology Committee has chosen Pacific Technologies Inc. to conduct its information technology and organizational and studies. The Information Technology Committee will serve as steering committee and the state Information Technology Advisory Committee will provide input for the study, which is being conducted over a period of 12 weeks. Pacific Technologies is conducting one-on-one interviews with key state personnel and also with focus groups to determine strengths, weaknesses, and potential solutions to information technology issues.

Higher education rollout schedules become more specific

While campuses have seen the rollout schedules posted on the Web site, they continue to be interested in more detailed specifics regarding those implementations. The project team is refining the overall project plan, therefore following time frames are approximate and may vary slightly:

September – October 2003 - Fit sessions for Financial and Human Resource Management systems. This is when all campuses, including the two pilot sites, will determine how their businesses process “fit” with the PeopleSoft software in these areas, including those already implemented at Mayville and Valley City. A similar check is anticipated in the student modules of recruitment and admissions, financial aid, student records, and student financials.

November – December 2003 - 1st cycle configuration and testing for Financial and Human Resource Management systems as it pertains to each module.

January – February 2004 - 2nd cycle configuration and testing within Financial and Human Resource Management systems.

During this time frame, the non-pilot campuses are also expected to begin “going live” with the first of three portions of financial aid.

March – April 2004 - 3rd cycle (project) configuration and testing for Financial and Human Resource Management systems.

During this time frame, the non-pilots campuses are also expected to “go live” with the second of three portions of financial aid.

In addition, in April, Mayville and Valley City, the pilot campuses, will also begin implementing the new modules of the Financial and Human Resource Management systems – this will provide a “pilot” of those modules.

May – June 2004 - Regionalized training for the non-pilot campuses for both the Financial and Human Resource Management systems.

Also beginning in May and completing in July, the non-pilot campuses will “go-live” with recruitment and admissions.

July 2004 - “go live” on all non-pilot campuses of Financial and Human Resource Management systems, as well as the final portion of financial aid, student records, and student finance.

From “go-live” – September 2004 - post-production.

Words & acronyms

sept 2003

ERP—“Enterprise Resource Planning” System or “Enterprise Resource Package.” Essentially, it means an administrative software system that covers the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management. While our current administrative systems (commonly known as SAMIS or CICS) were developed long before “ERP” was even thought of, they are essentially our ERP today.

Web-streamed—Recorded live and broadcast real-time via the Internet to those who cannot be at the event location.

About ConnectND

What is ConnectND?

The CONNECT ND project is the implementation of *PeopleSoft's* ERP system that will replace North Dakota's current administrative computer systems. The ERP system will serve as the administrative systems for the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management.

Who is involved in ConnectND?

All of [North Dakota State Government](#), including the [North Dakota University System](#), is involved in this project.

How is the ConnectND project organized?

The project has been organized by module (functional area) into three state groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, and Technical) and four higher education groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, Student Administration, and Technical).

Links mentioned

- **Calendar:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/index.php?module=PostCalendar
- **Connect ND:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd
- **MAXIMUS:** www.maximus.com/public/virtual/home
- **North Dakota University System:** www.ndus.nodak.edu
- **PeopleSoft:** www.peoplesoft.com/corp/en/public_index.asp
- **Rollout Schedules (these schedules will reflect changes as they occur):** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=57
- **State of North Dakota:** <http://discovernd.net/>
- **Video archive:** www.nodak.edu/connectndmodules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index
- **Web-streamed:** www.nodak.edu/connect/repository/development/calendarEscalation.pdf

Fyi & updates

What is the current status of ConnectND?

On August 22, 2003, the Project Oversight team moved the project schedule into a cautionary status, noting that higher education is struggling with staffing, which could impact the overall schedule, but indicating good probability the project will meet dates and acceptable quality.

NDUS pilot sites report that staffing shortages have meant everything isn't yet working as it should, causing delays in obtaining security authorizations and difficulty in extracting information to generate reports and to update other systems.

How is ConnectND being implemented?

Under the leadership of a State Executive Steering Committee (co-chaired by Lee Vickers, president, Dickinson State University and Pam Sharp, director, Office of Management and Budget) and with the help of our implementation partner, *MAXIMUS*, the project is being implemented using a four-component approach.

Components 1 and 2:

These components include the five-phases of Initiation, Design, Development, Migration, and Post-production phases at the pilot sites.

Components 3 and 4:

These components include the five-phases of Initiation, Design, Development, Migration, and Post-production phases at all the non-pilot sites.

When will ConnectND be implemented?

The *ConnectND Rollout Schedules* contain specific information related to these rollouts.

Has end-user training been scheduled?

Project managers are scheduling end-user training using a just-in-time approach, within 60 days prior to implementation.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcome.

We encourage questions about this newsletter or the project. To facilitate this process, you may ask a question electronically through the Web site [FAQ](#) (Frequently Asked Questions) section. It's also a place to view the questions others have asked and the responses of the project teams.



More information, questions or comments: www.nodak.edu/connectnd

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